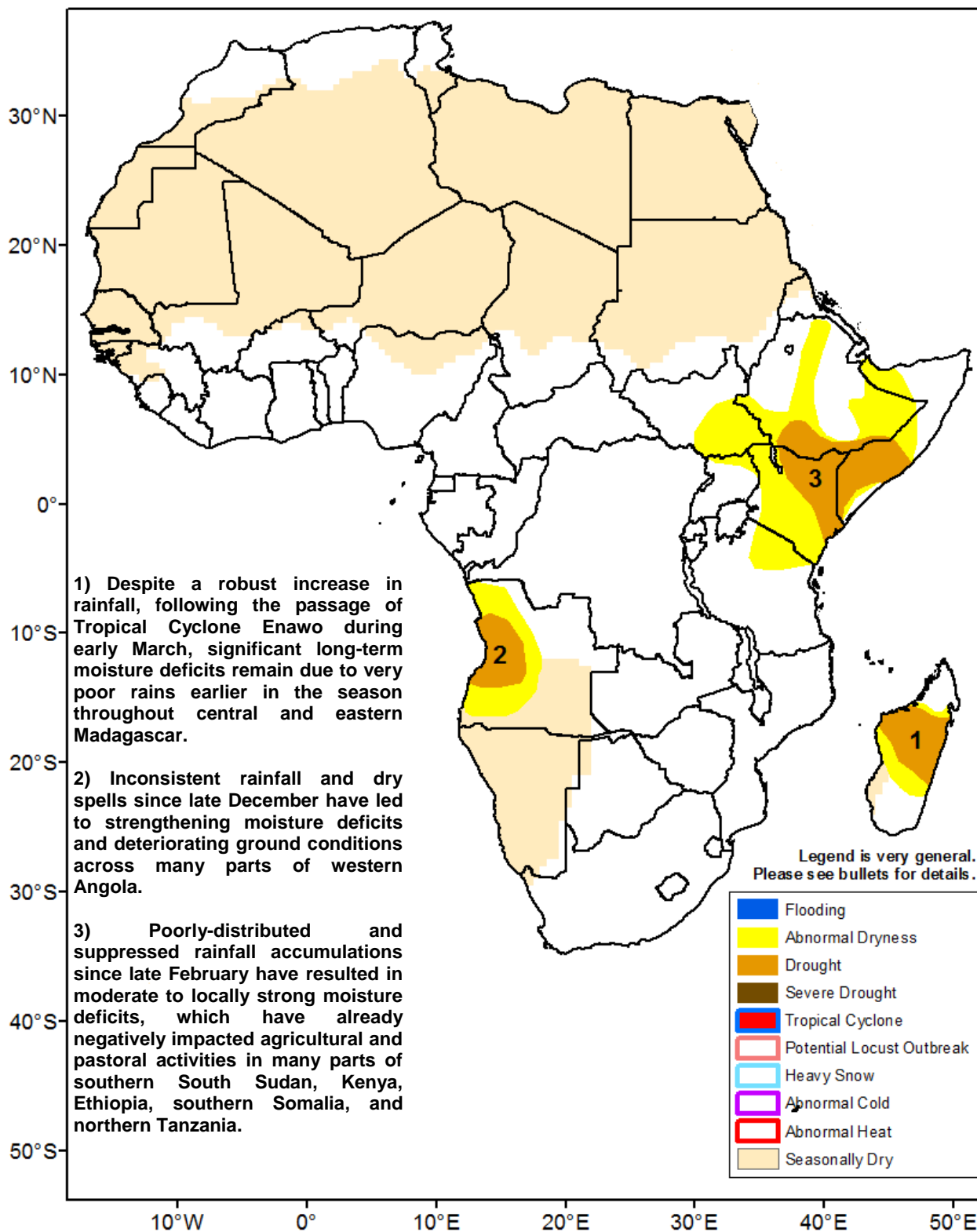




Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook April 27 – May 3, 2017

- Drought conditions have emerged in the Greater Horn of Africa due to an uneven rain since late February.
- Below-average rain observed in parts of the Gulf of Guinea as the rain-belt was below its normal position.



Widespread dryness depicted over the Horn of Africa.

The evolution of the March-May rainfall season over the Greater Horn of Africa has been characterized by a poor performance. Despite a somewhat favorable rain, received over some parts of Ethiopia during February, good rain failed to show up throughout many areas since late February or early March. An analysis of the cumulative rain over the past thirty days displayed wide areas, including eastern South Sudan, northern Uganda, much of Kenya, southern and central Ethiopia, northern Tanzania, and southern Somalia, experiencing well below-average rain (**Figure 1**). Moisture deficits exceeded 50 mm over many areas. The prolonged lack of rain since the beginning of the season has already adversely affected cropping and even led to livestock death over some local areas of southern Ethiopia, according to reports.

Given the relative shortness of the season and importance of rainfall on agricultural and pastoral activities over many areas in the region, a favorable distribution in rainfall is critical over the next few weeks. During the next outlook period, a return to wet weather patterns is forecast over the northern parts of the Greater Horn of Africa, with moderate to heavy rain over much of Ethiopia and the central and northern portions of Somalia. Moderate to heavy showers are also expected, farther south, near the Lake Victoria region of southwestern Kenya. Meanwhile, little to suppressed rain is forecast elsewhere.

Limited rain observed along the Gulf of Guinea.

During the past observation period, limited, with light to locally moderate rain only was observed along the Gulf of Guinea. While the central parts of Cote d'Ivoire, localized areas of Ghana, Togo, and Benin received some moderate rain, most areas, except southern Nigeria, reported light rain (**Figure 2**). An analysis of the position of the Inter-Tropical Front during the second dekad (10-day period) of April indicated an atypical deflection of the rain-belt to the south, which was below its climatological position, over the central and eastern portions of the Gulf of Guinea. Consequently, this resulted in below-average rain over central Nigeria. Since late March, below-average rain was registered over Liberia, coastal areas of Cote d'Ivoire, parts of Ghana, Togo, and, Benin, and west-central Nigeria. If favorable rains do not return over the upcoming few weeks, negative impacts on cropping activities are likely.

During the next week, light and limited rain is forecast to continue across much of the Gulf of Guinea, except Liberia, portions of Sierra Leone, parts of Guinea-Conakry, and northwestern Nigeria, where moderate to locally heavy showers are expected. If the forecast, enhanced rain verifies, it should help reduce moisture deficits and replenish soil moisture over the dry portions of the sub-region.

30-Day Satellite Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)

Valid: March 27 – April 25, 2017

ARC2 30-Day Total Rainfall Anomaly (mm)

Period: 27Mar2017 – 25Apr2017

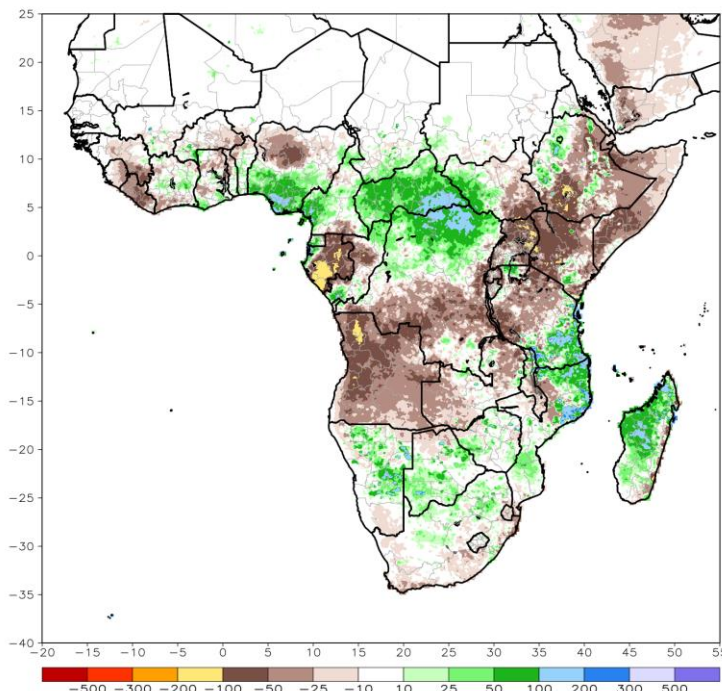


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

7-Day Satellite-Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)

Valid: April 19 – April 25, 2017

RFE2 7-Day Total Rainfall (mm)

Period: 19Apr2017 – 25Apr2017

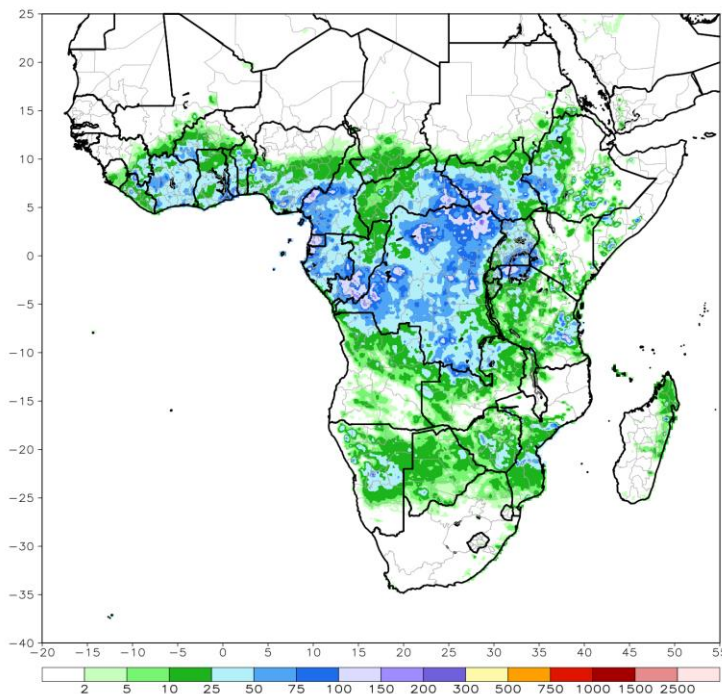


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.